

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Lawrence H. Ost, residing and having a post office address of 930 Muirfield, Inverness, Illinois 60067, Brandon H. Ost, residing at and having a post office address of 4N366 Margaret Mitchell Street, St. Charles, Illinois 60175, Hershel E. Beck, residing at and having a post office address of 5409 Meadow Stream, Crestwood, Kentucky 40014, and Philip J. Winters, residing at and having a post office address of 621 S. Jefferson Street, Lockport, Illinois 60441, declare that we are citizens of the United States of America. We believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

“FILTER FRAME AND ASSEMBLY”

the specification of which is being filed concurrently herewith, and identified by Attorney Docket No. 00985.00.0073.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendments referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's

certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed: NONE

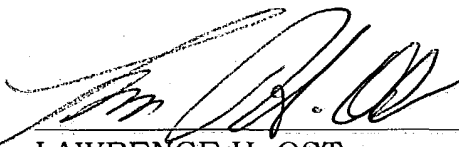
We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: NONE

The undersigned hereby appoint Angelo J. Bufalino, Reg. No. 29,622, James T. FitzGibbon, Reg. No. 20,592, Richard A. Zachar, Reg. No. 25,560, Joseph P. Krause, Reg. No. 32,578, Robert S. Beiser, Reg. No. 28,687, Christopher J. Reckamp, Reg. No. 34,414, Michael J. Turgeon, Reg. No. 39,404, Timothy J. Bechen, Reg. No. 48,126, Themis Anagnos, Reg. No. 47,388, and Brent A. Boyd, Reg. No. 51,020, its attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, and to receive the Letters Design Patent. Please address all correspondence to:

Angelo J. Bufalino, Esq.
VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60601

The undersigned declare further that all statements made herein of their own knowledge are true and that all statements made herein of their information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated:

July 23, 2003 
LAWRENCE H. OST

STATE OF Illinois)

COUNTY OF Kane)

SS



I, Joanne M. Calme, a Notary Public in and for the county and state aforesaid, do hereby certify that LAWRENCE H. OST, personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Notarial Seal, this 23rd day of July, 2003.

My Commission Expires:

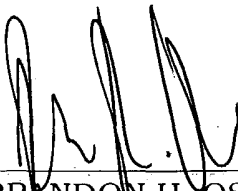
09/06/04

Joanne M. Calme
Notary Public

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Dated: 7/23/03


BRANDON H. OST

STATE OF Illinois)
COUNTY OF Kane) SS

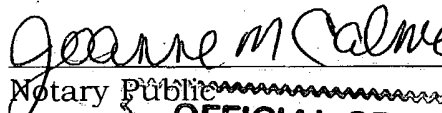



I, Joanne M. Calme, a Notary Public in and for the county and state aforesaid, do hereby certify that BRANDON H. OST, personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

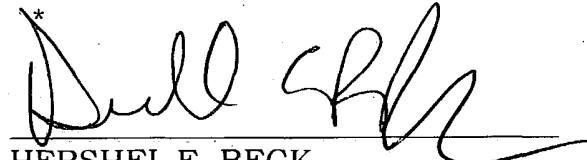
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Notarial Seal, this 23rd day of July, 2003.

My Commission Expires:

09/06/04


Notary Public


* * *
Dated: 7/23/03


HERSHEL E. BECK

STATE OF Illinois)
COUNTY OF Kane) SS



I, Joanne M. Calme, a Notary Public in and for the county and state aforesaid, do hereby certify that HERSHEL E. BECK, personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Notarial Seal,
this 23rd day of July, 2003.

My Commission Expires:

09/06/04

Joanne M Calme
Notary Public



* * * *

Dated:

7/17/03

Philip J. Winters
PHILIP J. WINTERS

STATE OF Illinois)

COUNTY OF Will)

SS

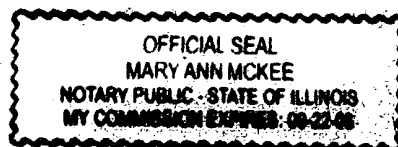
I, MARY ANN MCKEE, a Notary Public in and for the
county and state aforesaid, do hereby certify that PHILIP J. WINTERS,
personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to
the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and
acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as his
free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Notarial Seal,
this 17th day of July, 2003.

My Commission Expires:

09/22/06

Mary Ann McKee
Notary Public



[END OF DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY]